

making health insurance more affordable is the best way to reverse this long-term trend. I have put forth a reform proposal that would fairly distribute the tax advantages to purchasing health insurance, encouraging more workers to purchase their own health insurance.

What American workers do not need right now are tax increases to fuel excess spending by the Congress. I encourage Democratic leaders in Congress to resist their urge to increase taxes on Americans and to live within the budget limits I've proposed. It's vital that we do not undermine an economy that has created more than 8.2 million new jobs over the past 4 years and is improving standards of living for so many American families.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Remarks Following a Dinner With Elected Officials and Community Leaders in New Orleans, Louisiana
August 28, 2007

The President. Ms. Chase, thank you for having us here. Laura and I are thrilled to be here with the Governor and the mayor and the Senator, the Congressman, members of my Cabinet, distinguished leaders in this community, and quiet heroes who have helped bring optimism and hope to New Orleans.

We've got social entrepreneurs in our midst, artists in our midst, all of whom have dedicated their lives to the renewal of New Orleans. And we're so honored to be in this restaurant. I know you would want me to say that the food here is about as good as any place here in New Orleans. [*Laughter*] And I will say it. [*Laughter*]

Reverend Fred Luter, Jr. It is that good.

The President. It is good. And we're so honored that you gave us a chance to come to the renovated restaurant. I know you're opening in a couple of weeks.

Leah Chase. In a couple of weeks, yes.

The President. Well, we're thrilled that you would allow us to come and taste your beautiful food in this spectacular room. We love your art, but more importantly, we love

your spirit. You're one of the leaders here in this community.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:55 p.m. at Dooky Chase's Restaurant. In his remarks, he referred to Leah Chase, owner, Dooky Chase's Restaurant; Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Senator Mary L. Landrieu, and Representative William J. Jefferson of Louisiana; Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA; and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Alphonso R. Jackson. Also participating in the dinner were Donald E. Powell, Federal Coordinator, Office of Gulf Coast Rebuilding; Raymond S. "Coach" Blanco, husband of Gov. Blanco; Tommy Andrade, owner, Blanca, LLC; John Besh, executive chef, Restaurant August and Besh Steakhouse at Harrah's Casino; Dr. Dale Betterton, comanager, Operation Blessing Medical Clinic; Julia Bland, executive director, Louisiana Children's Museum; Drew Brees, quarterback, New Orleans Saints; Joseph C. Canizaro, chairman and chief executive officer, Columbus Properties; Daryn Dodson, IDEAcrops fellow, Idea Village; Norman C. Francis, chairman, and Kim M. Boyle, member, Louisiana Recovery Authority; Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honore, USA, commanding general, First United States Army; Jared Kahan, volunteer, AmeriCorps; Jay Lapeyre, chairman, Business Council of New Orleans; Agustin "Augie" Lopez, owner, Smilie's Restaurant; Rev. Fred Luter, Jr., pastor, Franklin Street Baptist Church; musician Irvin Mayfield; Father Nguyen The Vien, pastor, Mary Queen of Vietnam Church; and Becky Zaheri, president and founder, Katrina Krewe.

Memorandum on Assignment of Function Concerning Assistance to Afghanistan

August 27, 2007

Presidential Determination No. 2007-29

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Director of National Drug Control Policy, and the Director of National Intelligence

Subject: Assignment of Function Concerning Assistance to Afghanistan

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, the function of the President under the heading "Economic Support

Fund” in the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–102)(the “Act”), as carried forward by the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Public Law 110–5), that relates to waiver of a provision is assigned to the Secretary of State. The Director of National Drug Control Policy and the Director of National Intelligence shall, consistent with applicable law, provide the Secretary of State with such information as may be necessary to assist the Secretary in the performance of such function.

Reference in this memorandum to the provision in the Act shall be deemed to include references to any provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as such provision.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 29.

Proclamation 8169—Minority Enterprise Development Week, 2007 *August 28, 2007*

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Minority Enterprise Development Week is a chance to highlight the accomplishments of minority business owners and underscore our commitment to strengthening minority businesses and helping these entrepreneurs succeed.

Minority business owners have made our Nation stronger. Our thriving and resilient economy is the envy of the world, and minority business owners are expanding opportunities for their fellow Americans.

More than 8 million jobs have been created in our country since August 2003, and minority businesses have contributed to this progress. Our economy has experienced more than 5 years of uninterrupted growth, and the unemployment rate remains low. My

Administration has worked with the Congress to deliver needed tax relief, and this has left more money in the hands of minority business owners to reinvest in their employees, their communities, and our country’s robust economy. By adopting sound policies that help our businesses continue to grow and expand, we are ensuring that America remains the land of the entrepreneur.

Our Nation has the most innovative, industrious, and talented people on Earth and when we unleash their entrepreneurial spirit, there is no limit to what the American people can achieve. During Minority Enterprise Development Week, and throughout the year, we recognize the vital contributions of minority business owners. These dedicated individuals are helping create a more hopeful society for themselves and their families. We will continue to strive for a society where personal effort is rewarded and where the American dream is within the reach of all our citizens.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 9 through September 15, 2007, as Minority Enterprise Development Week. I call upon all Americans to celebrate this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to recognize the many contributions of our Nation’s minority enterprises.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:03 a.m., August 30, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 29, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on August 31.